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White-tailed Kite

The very interesting talk on the White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus majusculus*, by Mr. Albert C. Hawbecker, at the August 9th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, suggested the thought that a review of the records of this species in San Francisco and Marin Counties, where many of us are privileged to observe birds, might be of especial interest to the Association's many new members.

In *The Condor* of March-April, 1906, volume VIII, No. 2, in an article entitled "Summer Birds of San Francisco, California", Milton S. Ray lists "One seen in May, 1900." In *The Condor* of September, 1917, volume XIX, p. 170, appears this interesting note also by Mr. Ray "Undoubtedly the most important recent find for the county was the locating of a nest of this bird in the Lake Merced region by Mr. Henry W. Carriger. As this, I believe, will be treated in an extended article by Messers. Squires and Hansen I omit further reference, only stating that on the morning of June 5 (1917) as Carriger and I approached the above nest the young birds were just leaving in their initial flight. Since I first recorded this species for the county, in May, 1900, including the above pair I have seen in all but five individuals here and their nesting is surely of exceptional interest."

Mr. W. A. Squires records the above nesting in *The Condor* of November, 1917, vol. XIX, p. 186, as follows: "During the spring and summer of 1917 a pair of White-tailed Kites nested near Lake Merced and succeeded in bringing their brood to maturity. This is the first record in many years for San Francisco County."

Mr. Squires further states: "I noted these birds on several occasions in Marin County during June, and found one nest near Kentfield on June 5 (1917). It is my opinion that the species is slowly but surely reestablishing itself in the Bay region where it has been nearly extinct for several years."

The above records for San Francisco County are all that I have been able to find. As to the prophecy of this species re-establishing itself: this is truer for Marin County than for San Francisco County. In "Birds of Marin County" a brochure published by the Audubon Association of the Pacific in 1933 on page 4 are a number of records. To these I would like to add the following: In *Bird-Lore*, March, 1931, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Kibbe observed two near San Quentin on April 18, 1926; in 1934 Mrs. Mary L. Courtright saw one over the Larkspur marsh, July 28th, Commander Henry E. Parmenter observed

one over Olema marsh, September 19th. Harold Kirker reported one at Tomales Bay, February 17, 1940; Mrs. Mary L. Courtright observed two at the Yatch Harbor and Marin Golf Course, east of San Rafael, on July 10, 1944, and one at Ignacio on June 19, 1945.

For those interested in further reading about this attractive species there are two interesting articles by Mr. Albert C. Hawbecker in *The Condor*: one in volume 42, 1940: 106-111 and volume 44, 1942: 267-276.

Mr. Hawbecker states that the principle food of the White-Tailed Kite is the Meadow Mouse, *Microtus californicus*. That this Kite is no longer reported in San Francisco is, no doubt, due to another scarcity here:—its favorite food, the meadow mouse. However, just south of us in the hills of San Mateo County are many meadow mice and hawks are to be seen there during certain times of the year. An alert observer might some lucky day pick out a White-tailed Kite from among the others. I would appreciate having any records of this bird either in San Francisco County or its neighboring counties.

— Laura A. Stephens, San Francisco, California. August 15, 1945.

August Field Trip

The trip to Dimond Park was, as always, an enjoyable affair. Our friends of the air make all meetings worth while. The day was cool with no sunshine. Anna humming-birds greeted us everywhere. We watched one of the tiny creatures perched on the top of a red lily, apparently taking a rest. Later, as we walked down the canyon, another spent considerable time flying around a little pool as if afraid of the coldness of the water. Finally it took courage and darted down but its feathers seemed almost dry when it alighted on a near-by tree to preen them. Fox and song sparrows were busy with their morning baths, while spotted towhees and juncos fed their young. Two red-breasted nuthatches were at their best as they ran up and down and around the limb of an old oak tree.

Seventeen species were observed: Anna Hummingbird, California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-Tit, Bewick Wren, Robin, Russet-backed Thrush, Pileolated Warbler, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Junco, Nuttall Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The members present were: Mrs. Blanche Clear, Mrs. Sadie Bozant, Misses Margaret Milwain, Ivander MacIver, Marie Sterne, Messers. Arthur Myer and Herman Leffler. There were two guests.

— Sadie Bozant, Historian.

September Meeting

The 336th meeting of the Association was held on September 13, 1945, with president, Mr. Arthur Myer, presiding.

Announcement was made of a new member, Mrs. Paul Henry Fairbanks.

Field observations were given by Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Myer, Mrs. Austin, Miss Elwonger, and Miss Fay.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly addressed the club on "Shore-Birds", a most satisfactory talk preceding, as it did, the field trip which she led a few days later to the Alameda beaches.

— Monica Goen, Recording Secretary.

September Field Trip

The September Field Trip was taken to Alameda on Sunday, the 16th. The weather was perfect. High tide at Ft. Point was 4.2 feet at 9:23 a. m., PWT. Low tide was 3.3 at 1:45 p. m. The party met at Santa Clara Avenue and High Street at 10:45 a. m., and immediately proceeded to the pond on Bay Farm Island. Lunch was eaten on the west shore of the island where two Snowy Plovers, one Black Turnstone and many Sanderlings were seen. Later the party went to the widened and extended Garbage Dump Road and here at the turn of the road eight Cowbirds were perched on a leafless discarded tree branch. On account of the high low tide, birds remained concentrated during the entire time spent in the field.

Among the guests present were Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Stultz, members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, Mrs. Wesely of the Southern California Audubon Society; James G. Irwing, U.S.N.R., member of the Linnean Society, and Mr. Griswold, President, Napa Audubon Society.

Thirty-eight species were observed:

Pintail Duck	Gr. Yellow-legs	Short-eared Owl
Ruddy Duck	Lr. Yellow-legs	Red-shafted Flicker
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Least Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Sparrow Hawk	Dowitcher	Yellow Warbler
California Clapper Rail	Western Sandpiper	House Sparrow
Coot	Marbled Godwit	Meadow Lark
Snowy Plover	Sanderling	Red-winged Blackbird
Semi-palmated Plover	Avocet	Brewer Blackbird
Killdeer	Western Gull	Cowbird
Black-bellied Plover	California Gull	House Finch
Black Turnstone	Ring-billed Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Hudsonian Curlew	Bonaparte Gull	Song Sparrow
Willet	Forster Tern	

Members present were: Mr. and Mrs. Kilham; Mr. and Mrs. Myer: Mesdames Anable, Austin, Bozant, Curtis, Grinnell, Kelly, Stowell: Misses Davidson, Elwonger, Fay, Goen, Kirk, Leffler, MacIver, Myer, Papina, Camilla and Clelia Paroni, Plymell, Rinehart, Roscoe, Stanton, Sterne, Young: Messers. Bradley, Jack Heyneman, Leffler, Kay Martensen. Thirty-two members and twenty-three guests attended the field trip.

— Junea W. Kelly, Leader and Historian.

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Sept. 11; Townsend Warbler, Sept. 20; Berkeley, Clelia Paroni.

Snowy Egret, Greater Yellow-legs, Sept. 18; Berkeley Aquatic Park, Ruth Elwonger.

Six Northern Phalaropes, Aug. 5; Berkeley Aquatic Park: Olive-sided Flycatcher feeding young, Swainland Road, Oakland, Aug. 29: Six Brown Pelicans, Aug. 30, Sandbar near Bay Bridge: Twenty-three White Pelicans, Thirty American Egrets, Eight Greater Yellow-legs; Sears Point Road, Vee Curtis.

Female Western Tanager, Sept. 5, El Sobrante, Contra Costa County, Walter W. Bradley.

Wandering Tattler, Aug. 19, Bay Farm Island: Aug. 21, Mrs. Enid Austin and I estimated 2190 Red-winged Blackbirds flying over down-town Oakland, observations were made from the 13th story of the Franklin Building, 6:00 to 8:00 p. m. PWT. Junea W. Kelly.

October Meeting

The 337th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific is to be held on Thursday, October 11, 1945, at 7:30 p. m., in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Our vice-president, Mr. Walter W. Bradley, is to present the program of the evening. This is to consist of a set of hand-colored lantern slides on "The Art of John James Audubon". These slides have been reproduced by the National Audubon Society from paintings in the famous "Elephant Edition" of Audubon's "Birds of America". It will be accompanied by a commentary prepared by Mr. Bayard Cristie for the National Society.

Articles in Exchange Bulletins

AUDUBON MAGAZINE — July-August 1945

Page 207 — "Bird Habitats of Southwest Pacific", Ernst Mayr, *Illustrated*.
 Page 212 — "Bird Watchers", Capt. Louis C. Fink, *Illustrated*.
 Page 224 — "Roadrunner", Alfred M. Bailey, *Illustrated*.
 Page 230 — "Wing Haven", Elizabeth B. Clarkson, *Illustrated*.
 Page 234 — "Hawks and Owls Win in Minnesota", Kenneth D. Morrison, *Illustrated*.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. Arthur H. Myer.....	25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year

Life memberships, \$50.00

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer

October Field Trip

This trip will occur on October the 14th and will be taken to Tomales Bay, Marin County.

Members and friends meet at the old Point Reyes bus station at 9:30 a. m.

The Nature Study section of the Sierra Club will join us and four leaders will guide us. Three of these leaders will be Mr. Charles A. Bryant, Mr. P. H. Bolander, and Dick Johnson.

This is a most interesting ramble, especially to see shore birds.

Members on San Francisco side, who have transportation, please advise Miss F. Blake, SUTTER 4868 (daytime).